

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**  
(page 1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANAGING ARTICLES**

the specification of which  is attached hereto ; or  was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day / Mo. / Yr.)</u>	<u>( Yes / No ).</u> <u>Priority Claimed</u>
Japan	2003-047953 (Pat.)	25/February/2003	Yes
Japan	2003-054245 (Pat.)	28/February/2003	Yes
Japan	2003-088198 (Pat.)	27/March/2003	Yes
Japan	2003-090705 (Pat.)	28/March/2003	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.)</u>	<u>Status</u> <u>(Patented, Pending, Abandoned)</u>
------------------------	----------------------------	--

I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number:

**MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.**  
Customer Number: 27123

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor Satomi Maeda

Inventor's signature Satomi Maeda

Date February 16, 2004 Citizen/Subject of Japan

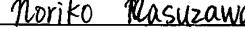
Residence Kanagawa, Japan

Post Office Address CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**  
(page 2)

Full Name of Second Joint Inventor Tsukasa Sako  
Inventor's signature   
Date February 18, 2004 Citizen/Subject of Japan  
Residence Kanagawa, Japan  
Post Office Address CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA  
3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Full Name of Third Joint Inventor Noriko Masuzawa  
Inventor's signature   
Date February 18, 2004 Citizen/Subject of Japan  
Residence Kanagawa, Japan  
Post Office Address CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA  
3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan